

report shall serve as the basis of such action by this Synod as may tend to remove the grievances, if any, and also to allay any and all uneasy apprehensions in reference to the religious element connected with the secular education of our children." It was further moved in amendment by the Rev. T. B. Jones, "That this Synod records its protest against any further violation of the Common School System in Upper Canada, and deploras that an undue partiality has been ever shown to any class of the community." This amendment was ruled out of order. The resolution and the various amendments were spoken to at some length by the movers and seconders, as well as by several other clergymen and laymen. Much diversity of opinion prevailed amongst the different speakers in regard to the working of the Common School System, and the necessity for reform in that direction, as well as to the utility of having separate schools for various denominations. It was urged that we would do better by striking directly at the root of the Separate School System of the Roman Catholics; and it was also urged by more than one speaker that on no account should the children of Protestants be separated in our Common Schools. The feeling of the Synod seemed to be strongly in favour of Mr. O'Loughlin's amendment, to assist in the passing of which Mr. Worrell's amendment was desired to be withdrawn, but was not permitted by the house. On Thursday, the debate was resumed by the Rev. Mr. Blesdell, who offered to withdraw his original motion in favour of one to be submitted by the Rev. R. Lewis. His Lordship said that if the original motion were withdrawn it would have the effect of doing away with Mr. O'Loughlin's amendment. It was then moved by the Rev. R. Lewis, seconded by the Rev. J. G. Worrell, "That this meeting pledges itself to use all lawful endeavours to secure Separate Schools for the children of the United Church of England and Ireland in the cities and towns of this diocese, in unison with the Common School System." Carried unanimously without debate.—*Kingston Chronicle*.

— DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES AT LONDON.—At the recent distribution of premiums to the most proficient among the scholars during the past year. The chair was occupied by His Lordship the Bishop of Huron, seated with him on the platform being a number of prominent citizens, the majority of whom had taken part in the late examinations. The interesting proceedings were commenced by singing the 100th Psalm, and prayer, followed by an address from the chairman, who, as one of the examiners in some of the most important branches of instruction taught in the school, testified to the marked attention on the part of the teachers, and the advancement on the part of the scholars in instruction, and expressing his great satisfaction at witnessing the quiet and orderly demeanor of the children towards their seniors, which had prevailed during the course of the examinations. The prizes were then delivered by His Lordship the Bishop, to the successful competitors. As the gift of the respected bishop, who kindly gave his salary as School Superintendent for this purpose, they will, we doubt not, remain cherished marks of favor with all who received them yesterday. After the distribution, a number of the gentlemen on the platform addressed the children at length.

— WOODSTOCK PUBLIC SCHOOLS.—From the remarks of the Local Superintendent at the recent successful examination, we select the following:—"The schools, on the whole, exhibit a small but steady increase of pupils. The average attendances for the last three years in the senior departments have been remarkably close. In the spring of 1861 a great influx of children rendered necessary the engagement of two additional teachers for the junior department. The increased attendance of that time has of late considerably augmented, so that the average of the past seven months is more than double that of the corresponding period of 1861. But even this does not shew the full and more recent increase, as in June last there were 280 children on the junior registers, and some days all were present; consequently the trustees, considering the health of the pupils as well as their education, last month engaged two assistant teachers and opened two other rooms. There are now six junior teachers in six well-ventilated rooms; but the course of instruction is so arranged that every child comes under the supervision of three teachers. Between 500 and 600 pupils are now coming to school pretty regularly, the average of the actual attendance for the last seven months being close upon 500. During the latter part of the present month the attraction of berry-picking has lowered the attendance materially, otherwise the average stated would have been yet higher. Our schools are not perfection; they are not called even first-class; but as Common Schools they will take their stand with any in the Province. We offer no accomplishments, but you who are here to day can best answer whether we do not give a sound and thoroughly practical education. Drill is regularly gone through, although

since the death of Brigade-Major Light, we have been deprived of the services of the drill sergeant. It is an exercise of great utility, and is highly relished by the boys. In the girls' department that most valuable help in domestic economy, plain sewing, has attained such a degree of excellence that many ladies who have inspected it say it is unsurpassable. Our museum and school gardens reflect much credit on the scholars generally. Between the few private schools and the public schools there are few, very few, I am happy to say, whose education is wholly neglected. Frequent absence on the most frivolous pretences continues to an extent that might well be lessened, when we consider that the school days are only 226 in the year, and 5½ hours only, occupied each day.—I do not object to reasonable holidays, and full enjoyment thereof; at proper times they are necessary and commendable,—for instance a picnic or two in the summer, where the boys of the East School would invite the girls of the West School, and *vice versa*. This would call forth a display of courtesy and politeness much wanted. Each school, too, should have their cricket club, so that the boys of the one school could play a friendly game with the boys of the other one. The formation of a school library is much to be desired; and, although with the heavy taxes that have long pressed on the town the trustees have not thought proper to spend any portion of the public funds for this purpose, I trust that it may be at once commenced in another way. Suppose, for instance, 50 pupils in every senior department were each to subscribe one cent monthly, five or six of the most valuable periodicals could be obtained and circulated among the scholars in regular order; and this constant circulation of such works as "Good Words," "Chamber's Journal," "The Boy's own Book," "Leisure Hour," &c., must work incalculable good, and occupy many a wasted hour. I throw out these hints to-day purposely that both parents and children may know my views upon the matter, and in the hope that it may be acted on with a beneficial result. I will merely add that those familiar with our schools a few years back, must notice many improvements for the comfort of both teacher and pupil. They have unquestionably been progressing; and without aiming at an impossibility—perfection—yet we hope our future course will be even more decidedly progressive than the past."—*Times*.

— OTTAWA SCHOOL ENTERTAINMENT.—The recent examination of the scholars of St. George's Ward School partook more of a dramatic entertainment, mixed with that of a concert, than a regular inquiry into the acquisitions of the scholars. The schoolroom was tastefully decorated by the girls, who had wreaths of evergreens all round the room, (which was the upper flat of the schoolroom, and is generally used as a hall). At the upper end was a banner having a 'Prince of Wales' feather, above which the word "Welcome" was painted in large letters, and on each side there was a motto "Education Forever." On the right hand side we perceived two mottoes, "Hurrah for St. George's Ward," and "Excelsior." On the left-hand side another motto was placed, "Progress;" and on each side of the chimney, on the lower end, was the national motto, of "God Save the Queen." Natural and artificial flowers were to be found among the evergreens, as well as several small Union Jacks, which gave the room a gay appearance.—*Citizen*.

— ST. FRANCIS COLLEGE, RICHMOND.—The exercises at the close of the Spring Term of St. Francis College, Richmond, took place on the 5th ult. Its catalogue and announcement for the next session has just been placed in our hands. A brief *resume* of the history of the institution has been also communicated to us, which we propose to lay before our readers. In 1854, a few gentlemen in Richmond and Melbourne resolved to establish a Commercial and Classical College for the Eastern Townships. They subscribed liberally, and the building was begun. Unfortunately, although intended for the benefit of all, the burden of providing the funds was laid upon those living in the immediate vicinity, the subscriptions from other places being only about a thousand dollars. A debt of \$1500 was thus incurred, which, by interest accruing since the beginning, now amounts to \$2,400. From the information we find in the catalogue, we believe that were the case fairly stated, no difficulty ought to be felt in collecting sufficient to discharge this liability, which much hampers the extension of the College work. Pupils and students attend from all parts of the Province, and even from the United States, and we venture to say that but for St. Francis College, the great bulk of these young men who have been trained there and have graduated with high University honors, would never have received more than a common school education. These ought, therefore, to be mindful of their Alma Mater, on whose bosom they were nurtured. The course of instruction appears well calculated to develop the intellect. The requirements for matriculation are